

12. (Amended) A vector according to [any one of] claim[s] 8 [to 11] which is an expression vector.

16. (Amended) A polypeptide which comprises the sequence SEQ ID No: 2 or 3 or a sequence substantially homologous thereto, or a fragment of either said sequence, or is encoded by a polynucleotide as defined in [any of] claim[s] 1 [to 7].

17. (Amended) A host cell comprising a heterogeneous polynucleotide or vector according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 15] or which can be transformed or transfected with a vector according to any one of claims 13 to 15].

20. (Amended) A process for producing a host cell according to [any one of] claims 17 to 19] comprising transforming or transfecting a host cell with a polynucleotide or vector according to [any one of] claims 1 [to 15].

21. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a polypeptide, or other compound, the process comprising cultivating or fermenting a host cell as defined in [any one of] claim[s] 17 [to 19] under conditions that allow expression or production of the polypeptide or compound.

23. (Amended) A process according to claim 21 [or 22] in which the executed polypeptide or produced compound is recovered from the host cell.

25. (Amended) A process according to [any one of] claim[s] 21 [to 24] where the polypeptide is secreted from the host cell.

27. (Amended) A polypeptide or compound prepared by a process according to [any one of] claim[s] 20 [to 26].

28. (Amended) A process for the production of vitamin B12 (cobalamin), the process comprising culturing a host cell according to [any one of] claim[s] 17 [to 19] under conditions in which the vitamin is produced and, if necessary, isolating the vitamin.

31. (Amended) A host cell according to any one of claims 17 [to 19] for use in a method of treating the human or animal body by therapy or for use in an animal feed.

32. (Amended) Use of a host cell according to [any one of] claim[s] 17 [to 19 or a polypeptide or compound according to claim 27] to either make cheese or for use in cheesemaking.

33. (Amended) Use of a host cell according to [any one of] claim[s] 17 [to 19 or a polypeptide or compound according to claim 27,] in the manufacture of a foodstuff or in an animal feed.

34. (Amended) A foodstuff comprising a polypeptide of compound according to claim 27 [or a host cell according to any of claim 17 to 19].

36. (Amended) A process for manufacturing cheese or other fermented dairy product, the process comprising using a host cell according to [any one of] claim[s] 17 [to 19].

38. (Amended) A process according to claim 36 [or 37] wherein the host cell is a *Propionibacterium* cell.

Please add new claims 39-42 as follows:

39. A host cell which can be transformed or transfected with a vector according to claim 13.

40 Use of a polypeptide or compound according to claim 27 to either make cheese or for use in cheesemaking.

41. Use of a polypeptide or compound according to claim 27 in the manufacture of a foodstuff or in an animal feed.

42. A foodstuff comprising a host cell according to claim 17.